INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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PCT/NL 99/00607 A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 A6185/00 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 A61B Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category 9 Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. X US 5 601 079 A (WONG ET AL.) 1.17 11 February 1997 (1997-02-11) column 9, line 39 -column 10, line 42 column 11, line 53 -column 14, line 65 column 15, line 53 -column 17, line 57 figures 4A-10B A 2,3,6-9, 11,14, 15,18, 19, 21-23, 27,31 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: "I" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone filing date document which may throw doubte on priority claim(e) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed *&* document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 28 June 2000 05/07/2000 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentiaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31–70) 340–2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31–70) 340–3016 Chen, A

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